Core Theme – Patterns and Change SECTION A

1. Populations in transition

(a) Referring to the diagram, state the rank order (from highest to lowest level of equality) for the four aspects of the world average. [2 marks]

The ranking is education and health, tied at the top [1 mark], followed by economic and political [1 mark].

(b) Describe the status of women in country X. [3 marks]

A brief description of all four aspects should be given [1 mark] with some quantification [1 mark]. The remaining [1 mark] should be awarded for some development, such as comparison to the world averages, or a fuller description of the four aspects, or that political empowerment is an anomaly.

(c)Explain the relationship between fertility and the status of women. [5 marks]

Responses should note the inverse relationship between status and fertility: high fertility, coupled with low status or low fertility coupled with high status [1 mark] and then provide an explanation in terms of economic factors (careers leading to delayed marriages, the benefits and costs of children) and/or of socio-cultural and political factors (marriage customs, religion and contraceptive prevalence, education levels) [4×1 mark]. Accept other valid suggestions. In exceptional cases, depth of explanation may compensate for the number of factors considered.

“Government attempts to control population growth are ineffective.” Discuss this statement. [15 marks]

There are many possible approaches to this question. Most responses are likely to consider both pro- and anti-natalist policies, but it is equally acceptable to focus on only one of these, provided a variety of examples or strategies are discussed. A discussion of pro-natalist policy could consider incentives such as family credit and tax allowances, advertising, encouraging immigration and lifting restrictions. A discussion of anti-natalist policy could consider direct policies (control of fertility through coercion or persuasion, abortion and sterilization) and/or indirect policies (reduction of fertility through improving status of women, birth control, delaying marriage, banning polygamy, providing primary health care, financial incentives). Governments can influence population growth by a variety of migration policies. Responses that consider whether government attempts are effective or not are likely to be credited at bands E / F. Marks should be allocated according to the markbands.